

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 121110Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9473

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16635

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJ: THAI/DRV RELATIONS

1. IN THE COURSE OF A TALK WITH MFA UNDER-SECRETARY PHAEN WANNAMETHI THIS MORNING, HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THAILAND WISHED TO ESTABLISH AS GOOD RELATIONS AS POSSIBLE WITH THE DRV BUT THAT THE MOOD OF THE RTG HAD CHANGED SINCE THE PERIOD OF APPREHENSION AND CONCERN WHICH FOLLOWED THE FALL OF SAIGON. PHAEN SAID THAT THE RTG WAS NOW FAR MORE CONFIDENT AND SELF-ASSURED THAN IT HAD BEEN IN THAT DRAMATIC MOMENT AND THAT WHILE IT WISHED TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, IT BELIEVED IT WOULD "GET ALONG VERY WELL WITHOUT THE DRV."

2. REMINISCING ABOUT THE MAY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DRV, PHAEN NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD APPEARED SINCERE IN THEIR REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE THAT RELATIONS COULD BE NORMALIZED. ON THE OTHER HAND
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THEIR DEMANDS WITH REGARD TO AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS WHICH

HAD COME TO THAILAND FROM SOUTH VIETNAM WERE TOTALLY UNREASONABLE. IF THIS WAS A MATTER OF TRUE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN, IT WAS ONE THAT AFFECTED SOUTH VIETNAM, THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES AND NOT REPEAT NOT ONE THAT AFFECTED NORTH VIETNAM. HE SAID THAT HANOI HAD PROPOSED TWO FURTHER DATES FOR MEETINGS IN HANOI WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RTG BUT UNFORTUNATELY ONE HAD COINCIDED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA AND THE OTHER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESENT TRIP TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE BALL WAS IN HANOI'S COURT AND IT WAS UP TO THE DRV TO PROPOSE ANOTHER DATE.

3. PHAEN NOTED THAT RADIO PHNOM PENH HAD BROADCAST WHAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE PRC BUT HANOI HAD NEVER MENTIONED THE KHUKRIT VISIT TO PEKING AND THE VILIFICATION OF THAILAND BY HANOI RADIO HAD INCREASED SINCE THAT TIME. PHAEN ALSO NOTED THE UNCALLED FOR CRITICISMS OF THE JOINT U.S. /THAI NAVAL EXERCISE WHICH RADIO HANOI HAS BEEN BROADCASTING. HE REPEATED THAT THAILAND HOPED FOR AS FRIENDLY RELATIONS AS POSSIBLE WITH NORTH VIETNAM BUT RE-EMPHASIZED THAT THAILAND WAS NOT GOING TO CRAWL IN FRONT OF HANOI OR TAKE ANY STEPS WHICH MIGHT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THAILAND WAS FEARFUL OF NORTH VIETNAM.

4. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL EXPRESSION WE HAVE HAD OF THIS CHANGED ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE RTG. AS WE HAVE NOTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AND THE GENERAL TREND OF EVENTS SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON HAVE GIVEN THE RTG A FAR GREATER SENSE OF CONFIDENCE THAN WAS MANIFESTED IN THE DRAMATIC PERIOD FOLLOWING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION OF SAIGON. WHITEHOUSE

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